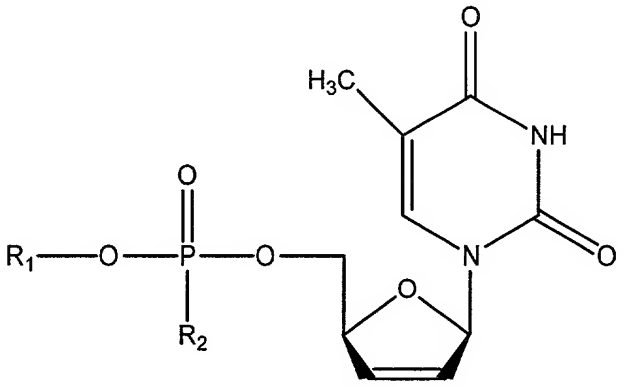
WE CLAIM:

1. A method for treating viral infections comprising extending the elimination half-life of d4T metabolite in a mammal by administering an effective amount of a compound of Formula I:



Formula I

where R_1 is an aryl group substituted with an electron withdrawing group and R_2 is an amino acid residue or an ester of the amino acid residue, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the aryl group is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, and anthryl.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the aryl group is phenyl.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the electron-withdrawing group is a halo.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein R1 is para-bromophenyl.

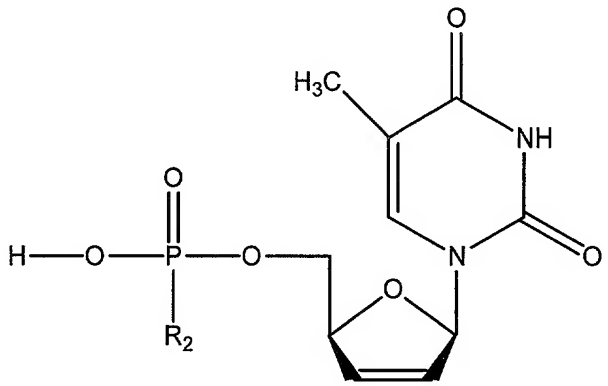
6. The method of claim 1, wherein R2 is an α-amino acid or ester thereof.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein R2 is -NHCH(CH3)COOCH3.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein R_1 is para-bromophenyl and R_2 is -NHCH(CH3)COOCH3.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the viral infection is HIV.

10. A method for treating HIV comprising extending the elimination half-life of d4T in a mammal by administering an effective amount of a compound of Formula IV:



Formula IV

where R_2 is an amino acid residue or an ester of the amino acid residue, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein R_2 is an α-amino acid or ester.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein R_2 is -NHCH(CH3)COOCH3.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the viral infection is HIV.